

# **REPLACE YOUR THIRSTY LAWN WITH CA NATIVES**

Presented by BAWSCA & City of Mountain View May 1, 2010

**DEVA LUNA – EARTHCARE LANDSCAPING – 408-871-2792**

## **WHY NATIVES?**

- California has a very unique flora
- Plants and pollinators interdependent
- Ecological - use less chemicals
- Economical – use less water
- Smart gardening – use less labor

## **Garden/garden comparison (Santa Monica)**

- 1/10 of the water
- 1/4 of the maintenance labor
- 3/5 of the green waste

To view online:

[http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Demonstration\\_Gardens.aspx](http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Demonstration_Gardens.aspx)

## **NO MOW GRASSES / MEADOWS**

- Seasonal changes
- Flowers sway in the breeze
- Can be weed whacked annually
- Provide habitat for birds, butterflies
- Can be inter-planted with wildflowers

### **Clumping Grasses for Meadows**

- California Fescue *Festuca. californica*
- June Grass *Koeleria macrantha*
- Purple Needle Grass *Nasella pulchra*
- Leafy Reed Grass *Calamogrostis foliosa*
- Berkeley Sedge *Carex divulsa (non-native)*

### **Spreading Grasses for Meadows**

- Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*
- Dune Sedge *Carex pansa*
- Foothill Sedge *Carex praegracilis*
- Idaho Fescue *Festuca idahoensis*

## **ESTABLISHING A MEADOW**

- Relaxed attitude around perfection/change
- Decide on type of grass
- Mixed with flowers?
- Transplants or seed?
- Pre-germination of existing weed seeds
- Weeding important until established

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## **HERBAL “LAWNS”**

- Woolly Thyme, Creeping Thyme, Elfin Thyme
- Chamomile
- Yarrow
- Sweet Woodruff
- Corsican Mint
- Yerba Buena

**ECO-LAWN:** Mixture of clover, yarrow & dwarf fescues

**ARTIFICIAL LAWN:** never needs mowing or watering – but can’t recycle it and doesn’t cool or give anything back to the Earth

## **DROUGHT TOLERANT GROUND COVERS**

Manzanita, Dwarf Coyote Bush, Dwarf Ceanothus, Strawberry,  
(non-natives:) Dymondia, Lowfast Cotoneaster, Rosemary

**SUNNY & DRY: CHAPARRAL, GRASSLAND & DESERT PLANTS,**  
Manzanita, Sage, Ceanothus (some), Coyote Bush, Matilija Poppy, Woolly Blue  
Curls, California Fuchsia, Buckwheats, Deer Grass, Monkey Flower, Foothill  
Penstemon, Yarrow

## **SHADY & DRY: OAK WOODLAND**

Coffeeberry, Toyon, Hummingbird Sage, Coral Bells, Douglas Iris, California  
Grape, Coyote Mint,

## **SUNNY WITH MODERATE WATER: RIPARIAN & COASTAL PLANTS**

Sandhill Sagebrush, Vine Maple, Beach Strawberry, Beach Aster, Siskyou Blue  
Fescue, Cedros Island Verbena, Ground cover Manzanita

## **SHADE WITH REGULAR WATER: REDWOOD FOREST**

Wild Ginger, Bleeding Heart, Flowering Currant, Western Columbine, Western  
Azalea, Sword Fern, Wax Myrtle, Spicebush

## **RESOURCES**

Going Native Garden Tour - April

[goingnativegardentour.org](http://goingnativegardentour.org)

California Native Plant Society

[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

Yerba Buena Demonstration Garden

[www.yerbabuenanursery.com](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com)

Low Cost Professional Lawn Replacement

[www.naturalfrontyards.com](http://www.naturalfrontyards.com)

Sustainable Landscaping Site with lists of professionals and pictures

[www.landscapistandards.com](http://www.landscapistandards.com)